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Culture of
Potted Gardenia Plants
In the Home or
Conservatory

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THE GENUS GARDENIA embraces a number of shrubs and small trees, sometimes nearly or quite evergreen. The Cape Jasmine, sold principally for Memorial Day, is *Gardenia Veitchii*, introduced by James Veitch & Son, the English firm. The old species of Cape Jasmine is *Gardenia Jasminoides* or *Gardenia Florida*, also sometimes called *Gardenia Fortunei*. Many of the plants grow in the south and are hardy as far north as Virginia. At present the commercial production of Cape Jasmines centers about a certain section of Texas. Species of gardenia are also native to India, Burma, Luzon, China and South Africa.

It may safely be said of the "Belmont" Gardenia that it is the first generally successful gardenia to be grown for a house plant or in a glass conservatory. The "Belmont" gardenia originated at the Belmont Gardens at Belmont, Mass., where they are grown extensively. Where other varieties would not produce free flowering buds, the "Belmont" buds open readily which results in a heavier production of very large blooms.

Location of Plant

Keep plants in even night temperature between 60° and 70°. Never place near radiators. Always in the sun when possible, avoiding drafts.

During summer, from June to September, plants can be grown out doors but only in a sheltered location, protected from strong winds.

If yellow leaves appear, due to the change of environment, simply pick them off. This is a natural condition resulting in the shedding of matured growth, the same as roses or other flowers.

Watering Pots

The first rule is to try to keep plants in semi-moist condition, not too wet and not too dry. It is well to apply enough water to moisten all the loam and then wait until plant dries out enough to apply more water.

The mistake made usually is to water constantly thus keeping the plant too wet, which results in rotting of the roots. Use tepid water. Do not let plant stand in water. Keep saucer dry.

Controlling Insects

Unfortunately the white mealy bug is quite troublesome on gardenias. These insects lodge in the joints of the plant and must be eliminated. The easiest method is to place plant in a sink and go over the joints of the plant with a soft cheap flat 2-inch paint brush. Use a little laundry soap in the water to clean the plant. During warm weather, take the plant out doors and syringe with cold water with enough force to clean the plant, using a garden hose equipped with a spray nozzle. These rules apply to controlling any other insects that may appear on the plants.

Feeding

Feed plants every three or four weeks with liquid fertilizer. The Belmont Gardens have a special preparation for this purpose. Gardenias require certain elements that are quite necessary to keep plants green and healthy. Dissolve one teaspoonful of this fertilizer in the water used for one good watering for each plant.

Repotting

When plants are root bound, they should be repotted in a slightly larger pot to encourage new root development. We also have prepared a special compost for this purpose. The indication that a plant needs repotting is observed by looking at the roots. When only roots are seen and plant lacks vigor, repotting is recommended.

Picking Flowers

When flowers are to be worn as corsages, stem can be cut to the desired length. For floating in a flat vase or dish, snap out the bloom at bottom of calyx, leaving all foliage and wood on plant for future bloom development. Always submerge flowers in cold water for a few minutes after picking, then place in ice box to keep if not used immediately.

Special Gardenia Fertilizer

1 package \$.50

Enough for 3 plants for 1 year.

Large package 1.00

Special Compost for Repotting

Peck \$.60 Bushel \$2.00



BELMONT GARDENS

170 Brighton Street, Belmont, Mass.